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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Hungary

REPORT

SUBJECT

Deportation of "Bourgeois" Hungarians
from Budapest in 1951

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Period of Deportation

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During a period of 4 months - about April to July 1951, about 68,000 people, all from the so-called class of the enemy of the people, were deported. These people got a maximum of 24 hours to arrange their affairs and, on the basis of certain regulations, their property and any worldly goods were declared confiscated. They were transported in trucks and closed vans with destinations unknown, ~~known~~, but as it appeared later, mostly to small villages, mostly in the puszta (Hungarian steppe) area. Eligible for this deportation were all those who had formerly had any leading position, been a field officer or large landholder. Only a small group of people who could not be missed because of their specialist technical capacities escaped by the skin of their teeth.

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In Mezöbereny, the family was housed, with three other families, with a Kulak so it was a two-edged knife. As punishment for their origin, the deportees were exiled and given a place to live that was 3 x 3 meters

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and the Kulaks were punished by having to billet the deportees. The deportees could not leave the village, could not even be in the vicinity of the station. At least several times a week, the police came at night to check to see if all were in their quarters. If for some urgent reason, they had to leave the village, they had to ask permission in writing from the local police office. This request had to be forwarded to Békes, where there was a larger police unit, and from there again forwarded to the district police office in Békescsaba. Here the request was not looked on favorably and the report went back by the same channels. Various things could be transmitted if people so desired and disposal of such a request could take weeks. Various requests for medical help or hospital admittance, which would require leaving Mezöbereny, took so long to answer that the required help often came too late. fellow-sufferers die, among other things from appendicitis, because it was not possible to get into a hospital since a travel permit was not granted.

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[redacted] In the frost season there was almost no work and they had to live on what had been saved and on the yield from the sale of property and jewelry. [redacted]

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[redacted] Regardless of their ages, the men in the village were sometimes used for government services. Once in a driving snow storm and freezing weather, at 12:30 at night, a group of exiles [redacted] were dragged out of their houses to shovel snow. This went as follows: Beginning in a certain corner of the village, the residents were awakened, the husband got orders to dress and come along without knowing why. With the guards, uniformed policemen, they went to the next house where the same thing took place, and they waited until the man was ready. So they took up hours picking up and waiting for the men. At daybreak, the "snow-clearers" were put on a truck and taken to a highway about 15 km. from the village. Here they had to clear a path about 40 cm. (of snow deep) with only simple tools. The truck was to get them again at 4:00 in the afternoon. When it did not come at the appointed time, they were told it wasn't coming and they had to walk back to the village. Dead tired and soaked from snow they had to wade through, the men reached their residences. No food was supplied.

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They were extremely arbitrary about letting people visit the exiles. One time, relatives and friends would reach the village unhampered, another time policemen would be standing in the station, would ask the arriving passengers what they came for, and if that were to visit the exiles, they were kept at the station until the train arrived going in the other direction, and they were sent back on it. It also happened that visitors who came by train on Saturday afternoons were held at the station until Sunday evening and then sent back. There was no question of supplying food. Great arbitrariness and display of power were the order of the day. In Sept. 1953 these exiles were granted amnesty. The limitation was that they could not settle in the cities of Budapest, Miskolc, Dunapentele, Pécs or Sopron, and that in looking for work they could only be considered for a very subordinate position.

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